

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, July 16, 1881, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. (Cambridge, Mass.) Saturday, (July 16, 1881) My darling Alec:

I cannot begin to tell you how anxiously I watch for news of you and your doings, how you are succeeding, Oh how I hope you will be able to find the bullet, it would be such a triumph for you. Of course I want it for the President's sake also, but I want you to be the man to do it my own dear boy. Your arrival and "Professor" Tainter's was in the papers yesterday, also a full account of what was said to be the instrument you would use. I don't know how correct it was, not very I fancy for it was given by Professor Newcomb, before your arrival.

I want to know how you are personally, whether you manage to lower the temperature of your laboratory at all, I fancy you are so eager and excited that you don't feel the heat as you otherwise would. Only for my sake do take care and don't wear yourself all out. I at all events would think the President's life a poor exchange for yours.

We are getting along nicely at home, Harriet came yesterday and seems very pleasant. Daisy is afraid of her, but I believe is quite happy with her out of my sight. Elsie is satisfied to go to her. I can't make out whether Elsie really liked Elise after all. I asked her today if she wanted Elise to come back and she said yes.

I am so sorry about Prof. Trowbridge, immediately on receiving your telegram I sent over to Cousin Sam to know where the Professors were to be found, and Cousin Sam came over and took Johnston down 2 himself. Prof. Lovering said he was quite sure Trowbridge knew nothing about the matter, that there were no coils of the kind you wanted, so Mr. Johnston telegraphed that to you. I thought he ought to have done more and sent to

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Trowbridge, but dinner was ready and neither Johnston nor Chester seemed to think it was worth while telegraphing, as soon as your next telegram came I wanted to send right off, but Chester and Johnston would stop and play cards and smoke, and I did feel indignant. I don't think they have behaved remarkably well, they have shown us as little attention as they possibly could and are away all day until twelve at night. Chester dined with us just once.

Cousin Sam has just gone to the mountains. I did feel snubbed yesterday when I apologized for giving him so much trouble about your telegram and he said he was only too glad to do anything for Mr. Garfield , (not your humble servant!) I sent you a nightshirt, shirts, collars, cuffs and handkerchiefs and would have sent more grapes but feared they would be smashed. I will send more on Monday to you care of Brown White House, so if you leave before they come you can tell him what they are for.

Ever so much love, Your Mabel.